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**U.S. CHARGES THREE WESTCHESTER DOCTORS
WITH PROVIDING VIAGRA AND OTHER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
TO GAMBINO FAMILY MEMBERS IN RETURN FOR
PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, JOHN KLOCHAN, the Acting Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, and GORDON S. HEDDELL, the Inspector General of the United States Department of Labor, announced today the unsealing of a criminal complaint in Manhattan federal court in the case of United States v. Arlen Fleisher, et al., 05 Mag. 757 (the "Complaint"). The Complaint charges ARLEN FLEISHER, STEPHEN KLASS and GEORGE SHAPIRO, all practicing physicians in Westchester County, with regularly and unlawfully providing large amounts of prescription drugs and drug samples to members and associates of the Gambino Organized Crime

Family of La Cosa Nostra ("LCN") in return for various personal and financial benefits.

The charges in the Complaint are the result of a three-year investigation into the criminal activities of the Gambino Organized Crime Family. The investigation included the use of a confidential source and the placement of an undercover FBI agent directly into Acting Capo Gregory DePalma's crew, as well as the use of a roving wiretap. The investigation revealed that DePalma, his crew, and the Gambino Organized Crime Family were involved in a wide range of traditional racketeering activities, including extortion, loansharking and the sale of stolen goods. On March 2, 2005, a grand jury sitting in the Southern District of New York returned a 53-count racketeering indictment in the case of United States v. Arnold Squitieri, et al., 05 Cr. 228 (AKH) (the "Indictment"), and on March 9, 2004, 31 of the 32 defendants charged in the Indictment were arrested. Among those charged were the Gambino Family Acting Boss Arnold Squitieri, Acting Underboss Anthony Megale, Gregory DePalma, and Robert Vaccaro, who is a Gambino Family Soldier and a member of DePalma's crew.

During the course of this same investigation, the Government also learned that FLEISHER, KLASS and SHAPIRO regularly and illegally provided DePalma and his associates with large amounts of prescription drugs and drug samples, knowing that DePalma

distributed these drugs and drug samples to others. According to the Complaint, FLEISHER, KLASS and SHAPIRO provided DePalma with, among other things: Viagra, Cialis, and Levitra, all of which can be obtained only with a prescription. In return for these and other drugs and drug samples, DePalma allegedly provided FLEISHER, KLASS and SHAPIRO with benefits that derived directly from DePalma's position as an Acting Capo in the Gambino Organized Crime Family. These benefits allegedly included discounted construction and auto repair work done by Gambino Family-controlled businesses and the use of DePalma's table at Rao's Restaurant, in Manhattan.

As set forth in the Complaint, FLEISHER, KLASS and SHAPIRO were intercepted on numerous occasions discussing the provision of prescription drugs to DePalma. At one point, KLASS allegedly referred to himself as the medical "consigliere" for the Gambino Family. At another point, SHAPIRO allegedly accepted discounted construction work from DePalma. In addition, FLEISHER allegedly received discounted automobile repairs from a garage associated with the Gambino Family.

The maximum penalty faced by each of the defendants is ten years' imprisonment.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Department of Labor.

Assistant United States Attorneys EDWARD C. O'CALLAGHAN
and CHRISTOPHER P. CONNIFF are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely
accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and
until proven guilty.

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